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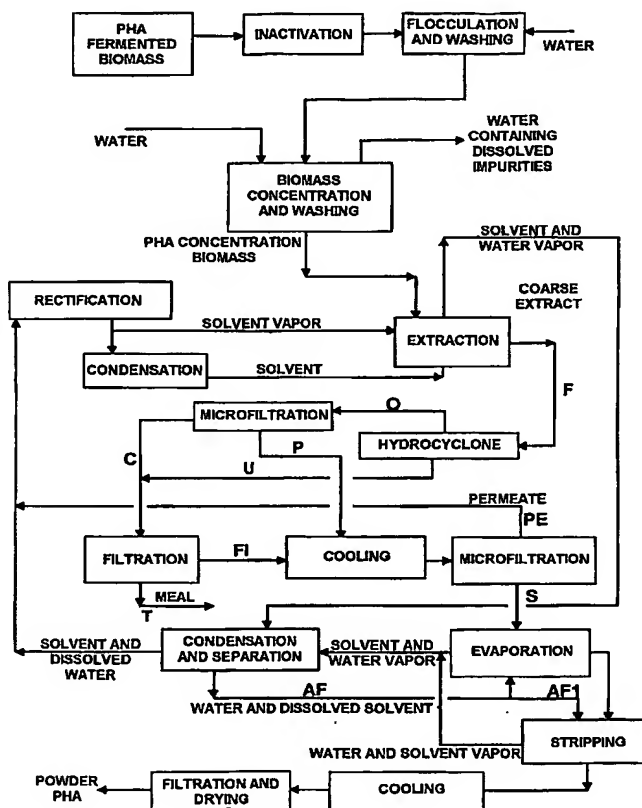
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR RECOVERING POLYHYDROXIALKANOATES ("PHAS") FROM CELLULAR BIOMASS



(57) Abstract: A process for recovering polyhydroxialkanoates (PHAs) from cellular biomass of bacteria, said biomass being obtained by fermentation and in the form of a cellular biomass slurry in aqueous suspension, comprising the steps of: submitting the slurry to operations of injection of PHA solvent, agitation and heating, in order to form a suspension comprising PHA solvent with the dissolved PHA, water and insoluble residues; recuperating the solvent enriched with PHA; rapidly cooling the solution of PHA solvent to precipitate the dissolved PHA; micro-filtrating the suspension of PHA precipitated in the solvent, in order to separate a paste concentrated with precipitated PHA; washing with water, heating and agitating the concentrated PHA paste, to promote evaporation of the solvent and to obtain a suspension containing PHA granules; agitating and shearing the PHA granules and depleting the residual solvent; and separating the purified PHA particles from the suspension.



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